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Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

CIO/IMS 0453-06
26 April 2007

Mr. Paul M. Wester, Jr.
Director
Modern Records Programs
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

Dear Mr. Wester:

This is in response to your letter of 19 June 2006, wherein you ask for details of the disposition of records associated with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (No. F-2003-00340) dealing with the death of CBS Journalist, George Polk.

Consistent with GRS 14, the Agency generally disposes of documents released to FOIA requesters and the associated source documents five years after the Agency's response to the requester, provided the requester has not appealed the Agency's determinations in the FOIA case. In this context, source documents are copies of originals that are reviewed and treated as part of the processing of a FOIA request. The disposition of the originals would be governed under separate authorities.

With respect to the nine original documents associated with this FOIA case, upon receipt of your inquiry, we thoroughly searched those records systems where we reasonably expected to locate the documents. Among other things, we reviewed information contemporaneous with the dates and subjects of correspondence released in the original FOIA case. We reviewed information from various components across the Agency. Notwithstanding our exhaustive search, we did not locate the nine documents or anything that would otherwise reveal their disposition.

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As you know, we take seriously our recordkeeping responsibilities and have made our records available to countless historians and commissions. Moreover, we have been equally cautious over the decades, as we are today, to preserve our records in accordance with approved records control schedules. It is unfortunate, given our otherwise excellent history of meeting our FOIA obligations and our engagement with the National Archives to make available millions of pages of significant materials on or involving the Central Intelligence Agency, that we are unable to find these nine documents. We would welcome the opportunity to share with you, in some detail, the measures we undertook to find the original documents.

Please contact [redacted] my Chief, Records Management and Technology Group, or me by mail or telephonically, at [redacted] respectively, for any further questions on this issue.

[redacted]
Edmund Cohen
Chief, Information Management Services